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Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Compilation of information received from United Nations system entities and other intergovernmental bodies on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Permanent Forum

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides a brief compilation of the information received from United Nations system entities and other intergovernmental bodies in response to a questionnaire on actions taken to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The complete responses are available from the following website: www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/17-2.html.

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I. Introduction

1. The members of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have often stated that the implementation of the recommendations of the Forum must make a difference in the daily lives of indigenous peoples. A crucial tool for assessing the degree to which the recommendations have been implemented is the information submitted to the Forum by entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies. The Forum acknowledges and thanks those entities that have provided reports, and urges them to continue to provide information on their activities and on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Forum. The Forum also encourages agencies, funds and programmes that have not done so to provide reports on their work with indigenous peoples.

2. A questionnaire was sent to 50 entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental bodies. As at 18 January, responses had been received from the following 19 entities: the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of the Secretariat, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO)/Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The complete responses are available from the website: www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/17-2.html.

II. Responses received from United Nations entities and other intergovernmental bodies on measures taken or planned to implement the recommendations of the Permanent Forum and the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Department of Political Affairs

3. In 2017 the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat was an active member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and participated in and supported several initiatives to implement the system-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (see E/C.19/2016/5). In October, the Department participated in and supported the efforts of the United Nations country team in Chile in its guarantor and observer role in the last phase of a Government-led consultation process with indigenous peoples on the inclusion of constitutional recognition and political participation in the draft law for constitutional reform. In

September, the United Nations, under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator for the Pacific region and in partnership with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, hosted a consultation on the Solomon Islands peace process involving 40 Solomon Islands youth.

4. The Department continues to work on capacity-development initiatives globally. Through the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, the Department engaged with the Amazigh indigenous population in the context of the constitution-drafting process in Libya to ensure that their concerns and interests were addressed. In the Philippines, with support from UNDP, two-track mediation initiatives have continued with Moro groups from Mindanao. The Department's liaison office in Nepal has been engaging with minority and indigenous groups to support an inclusive approach to the implementation of the 2015 constitution, including through quiet diplomacy and advocacy.

Department of Public Information

5. The Department of Public Information, together with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, provided an indigenous media zone from 24 to 28 April during the session of the Permanent Forum, which provided a working and meeting space for indigenous media producers and featured live interviews, discussions and press conferences with indigenous representatives and experts. The Department of Public Information will continue to work with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to hold media zones during future sessions of the Forum.

6. The Department of Public Information is the lead entity for raising awareness of the rights of indigenous peoples through a United Nations inter-agency working group of communications professionals under element 1 of the system-wide action plan. During the tenth anniversary of the commemoration of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in 2017, the working group developed and implemented a communication strategy with a range of promotional materials, press conferences and a branded emoji. The Department also provided broad multimedia and multilingual coverage of the high-level event convened by the President of the General Assembly on 25 April to mark the occasion.

7. The United Nations information centres around the world organized activities and events to raise awareness about the International Day of the World's Indigenous People (9 August). For example, the information centre in Bogota promoted indigenous voices through a mini-documentary aired in cinemas and on television, and the information centre in Canberra organized a capacity-building programme for indigenous leaders on the Sustainable Development Goals. The information centres continue to reach out to the media and educational institutions; engage in partnerships with governments, local civil society organizations and the private sector; and maintain libraries and electronic resources on indigenous issues.

Economic Commission for Africa

8. In the 2009 African Union Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa, facilitated by the African Land Policy Centre of ECA, Heads of State and Government resolved to lead the process of developing inclusive and responsive land policies to address African realities. Regional assessments to determine the status of land policies highlighted a gap with regard to the rights of indigenous people and other vulnerable groups. Informed by the findings of the assessments, the Centre developed a framework and guidelines on land policy in Africa to support African Union member States in developing land policies that are inclusive and participatory, taking into

consideration the peculiar circumstances of vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples, women and girls.

9. The Guiding Principles on Large-Scale Land-Based Investments in Africa, endorsed in 2014 by African Union ministers responsible for land and agriculture, are aimed at promoting investments that respect the human rights of individuals and communities as well as indigenous tenure systems. They promote the principle of free, prior and informed participation and consent of all land users, including indigenous peoples, prior to the allocation of land for investment, with a focus on the land rights of women in both formal and customary tenure systems. The Centre has developed training and capacity-building programmes on the implementation of the principles and use of the guidelines in negotiating investment contracts that protect the land tenure rights of indigenous people, who often occupy the land targeted by investors. Working in consultation with member States, the Centre conducted awareness-raising workshops and training on the Guiding Principles for African traditional authorities.

10. The African Land Policy Centre has developed a programme on land, investments and agriculture and another on gender to promote inclusive and responsive land policies recognizing and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples and women, including by supporting the development of appropriate land policies and legal frameworks as well as effective land administration programmes. This is critical for advancing recognition, recording and protecting all land users, including holders of indigenous customary rights. The Centre also advocates for the improvement of institutional and administrative arrangements to ensure the inclusive participation of indigenous peoples and women in the design of land administration interventions that affect their legitimate land tenure rights.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

11. In response to the recommendation of the Permanent Forum to scale up the representative participation of indigenous youth from all regions, FAO and representatives of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus have worked together to define the terms of reference of an indigenous youth consultative forum and to frame its objectives, role and functions, governance and structure since April. The first such forum is expected to be held in 2018. Following up on a request from the Caucus, FAO initiated an indigenous peoples internship programme, with 18 young professionals, as from August.

12. To raise awareness of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, FAO conducted a global campaign on the empowerment of indigenous women, which included 10 advocacy events, including a high-level ministerial event on indigenous women in Latin America. Furthermore, FAO developed 20 capacity-development and advocacy materials in written and video formats, which are available from www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples.

13. FAO has undertaken a wide range of activities to raise awareness of the Declaration, such as supporting the participation of indigenous peoples in the forty-fourth session of the Committee on World Food Security, the FAO Conference and a regional and global consultation on farmers' rights.

14. FAO has developed a series of capacity-development initiatives in Cambodia, India, Africa, Asia and Latin America on the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food

Security, which specifically address the rights of indigenous peoples to land, territories and natural resources, based on the Declaration.

15. The FAO indigenous peoples team and its representation in Paraguay have been providing technical advice to the national authorities regarding a decree on how to implement free prior and informed consent in the country.

16. The indigenous peoples' team engaged in strategic discussions with FAO strategic programme managers to develop a programme of work on indigenous peoples for the period 2017–2019. This has resulted in more than 11 agreements between FAO and indigenous organizations on implementing the programme of work on indigenous peoples in 2018.

International Fund for Agricultural Development

17. IFAD continues to facilitate the engagement of indigenous peoples through the Indigenous Peoples' Forum and the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility. In February, the third global meeting of the Forum was held on the theme "Economic empowerment of indigenous peoples, with a focus on women and youth", with representation from 32 countries. It highlighted best practices, lessons learned and the contribution of the self-driven development of indigenous communities to the economic empowerment of indigenous women and youth.[1] Successful policy engagement at the country level was shared in a dedicated session during the third global meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD and its 2017 Governing Council. The experience of El Salvador was presented by the General Director of the Bureau for Comprehensive Social Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Senior Adviser of the Consejo Indígena de Centroamérica (Indigenous Council of Central America).

18. The IFAD strategic framework 2016–2025 reaffirms the commitment of IFAD to indigenous peoples' self-driven development. In September, IFAD approved the country strategic opportunities programme for the Philippines, which received inputs from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples. In targeting indigenous peoples, the programme will facilitate access to their cultural resources and to commercially viable agribusiness opportunities.

19. The Executive Board of IFAD approved 16 projects in 2017 supporting indigenous and tribal peoples and ethnic minorities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, with an investment of $184 million. To consolidate the growing partnership with Slow Food, IFAD approved a $900,000 grant with the overall goal of empowering indigenous communities and youth.

20. In 2017 the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues formed a working group, led by IFAD, to support national policy dialogue and capacity development among indigenous peoples, member States and United Nations country teams in developing and implementing national action plans, policies and strategies, in incorporating indigenous issues in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and in involving indigenous peoples in their preparation as part of the implementation of the system-wide action plan.

21. IFAD also updated its social, environmental and climate assessment procedures in 2017, which, in line with IFAD policy on engagement with indigenous peoples,

[1] For more information on the Indigenous Peoples' Forum 2017, see www.ifad.org/it/web/events/ipforum.

include among its mandatory elements the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

International Labour Organization

22. Promoting indigenous peoples' rights and development, through its decent work agenda and on the basis of all relevant ILO conventions and recommendations, including the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), is an integral part of the Organization's mandate and work. In 2015, the ILO Governing Body endorsed, for the first time, an ILO strategy for action concerning indigenous and tribal peoples (available from www.ilo.org/indigenous). This institutional and programmatic context enables ILO to design and implement interventions in favour of indigenous and tribal peoples in an integrated manner, including action that follows up on recommendations of the Permanent Forum.

23. With reference to the Permanent Forum's recommendation to organize a meeting of technical experts to consider drafting a recommendation to supplement Convention No. 169, the 2015 ILO strategy for action concerning indigenous and tribal peoples provides for interventions to build national capacity for the application of the Convention, including the promotion of dialogue, technical assistance and sharing of good practices. As noted in the strategy, this could lead to the development of ILO guidelines or a code of practice. The recommendation is brought to the attention of ILO constituents for their consideration in due course, as appropriate.

24. ILO is also exploring, together with other agencies, follow-up to the recommendation of the Permanent Forum for a study on access to the labour market and labour conditions of indigenous women and youth. ILO has also been engaging with indigenous peoples' issues through the lens of intersectionality, including a specific focus on indigenous women and indigenous persons with disabilities, in relation to the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111). During the year, ILO expanded its work on the economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous women and men, including on several studies and deliverables focusing on indigenous women and their economic empowerment.

Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect

25. In its work with national focal points of the Latin American Network for Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect of the Secretariat contributed to discussions on the possible establishment of national mechanisms for genocide and atrocity prevention and provided general presentations on key policy options and elements of national atrocity prevention mechanism to 17 States in the Americas. The vulnerability of indigenous populations in the region of the Americas is a key focus of the Office, and as such it includes representatives of indigenous populations among its interlocutors when assessing the risk of atrocity crimes, particularly in that region.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

26. Since the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2007, various important measures have been taken to advance the rights of indigenous peoples. The shrinking democratic space for indigenous human rights defenders is a continuing challenge, along with a lack of consultation in relation to development priorities and strategies, extractive industries and the use of land, territories and other resources affecting indigenous peoples' rights.

27. In 2017 OHCHR, through a number of its field offices, continued to promote a better understanding of the provisions contained in the Declaration. The OHCHR office in Mexico co-organized and participated in public events to raise awareness of the importance of prior consultation relating to mining projects and legislative measures that could have an impact on indigenous peoples' rights and worked in collaboration with UNDP and FAO on a range of issues pertaining to indigenous peoples. The OHCHR regional office for South America coordinated a number of activities in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the Declaration. They included capacity-building activities for indigenous peoples in Argentina, Brazil and Chile, as well as an event, organized jointly with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, focusing on voluntary isolation and initial contact.

28. From April 2016 to May 2017, within the framework of discussions about a new constitution in Chile, the regional office for South America, jointly with UNDP, ILO, UNICEF and indigenous representatives, took part in a consultative council of the Chilean Ministry of Social Development tasked with providing technical advice on a participatory process with indigenous peoples in line with international standards. From August to October, the Government of Chile undertook a series of consultations with indigenous peoples on the measures that would serve as the basis for a new constitution to be introduced by the President in Congress, with consultations taking place at the local, regional and national levels.

29. The rights of indigenous peoples constituted a theme during one of the interactive dialogues at the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, held from 11 to 29 September. During the event, panellists discussed progress made in the implementation of the Declaration, the lack of adequate data and indicators to measure progress and major obstacles faced by indigenous communities, such as climate change.

30. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office continued to support legislative developments in cooperation with parliamentarians and key ministries, including the Ministry of Human Rights, to advocate for the adoption of a national law to protect the rights of indigenous peoples.

31. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, OHCHR in May provided technical assistance for a meeting of authorities of indigenous jurisdictions during which a protocol for the coordination of and cooperation between ordinary and indigenous jurisdictions was validated, with the participation of more than 600 indigenous peoples' representatives.

32. In Cambodia, OHCHR contributed to the development of the legal and policy framework regulating the land sector and the management of natural resources. It participated in consultations on the draft environmental code led by the Ministry of the Environment, as well as on the draft law on agricultural land, led by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and provided advice on harmonizing both drafts in accordance with international human rights standards. OHCHR also worked with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, local governments and civil society organizations to support indigenous peoples' efforts to apply for collective land titles and provided legal aid to communities that had suffered from land rights violations. The Office also collaborated with the Ministry of Rural Development and the local authorities of Koh Kong Province on registering the identity of eight indigenous communities of the Areng valley. Four of them finally received their indigenous peoples' identity registration in October.

33. In Honduras, OHCHR organized a series of workshops in the Lenca region of Intibuca, La Paz and Lempira, in partnership with the national mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers and social communicators, to further dialogue with local authorities on the right to access to justice of indigenous peoples.

34. During its tenth session, in July, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples decided to focus its next thematic study on free, prior and informed consent, to be presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2018. In its role as secretariat of the Expert Mechanism, OHCHR is supporting the preparation of the study, which included an expert seminar on the theme in Santiago on 4 and 5 December.

35. In Paraguay, OHCHR, jointly with partners from the inter-agency thematic group on human rights and indigenous peoples' rights, developed guidelines to promote the integration of a gender perspective into all issues related to the right to participation and consultation and the right to land. This contributed to the empowerment of indigenous women to increasingly contribute to public policies on issues affecting them.

36. OHCHR participated in several consultations and meetings related to data collection and the global indicators framework. In September, a multi-stakeholder consultation was held in Geneva to validate the definitional, methodological and data collection framework for the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, including on killings and other forms of violence against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists (indicator 16.10.1), the prevalence of discrimination and harassment (indicators 10.3.1 and 16.b.1) and conflict-related deaths (indicator 16.1.2), and on the human rights-based approach to data. The approach suggested by OHCHR for the indicators and the human rights-based approach to data were all validated. With regard to Sustainable Development Goal indicators 16.10.1, 16.b.1 and 10.3.1, the methodologies endorsed include minority, ethnic and indigenous status as a desirable data category, and it was agreed that to the extent possible, this information would be considered in the ongoing efforts to compile data. The human rights-based approach to data stresses the need for indigenous peoples to participate in the collection and disaggregation of data.

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

37. The Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its tenth meeting, held in Montreal, Canada, from 13 to 16 December, recommended that the Conference of the Parties take note of the recommendations emanating from the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

38. At its thirteenth meeting, in December 2016, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines (CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/18), intended to guide States parties and other Governments in the development of mechanisms, legislation and other initiatives to ensure the prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing the unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge. The guidelines, if effectively implemented at the national level, will assist in achieving Aichi Target 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and constitute a

substantial contribution to the protection of traditional knowledge under article 31 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

39. In 2017, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification facilitated the participation of indigenous peoples in several activities. For example, the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee was elected to the secretariat's civil society panel, which worked during the biennium 2016–2017 to bring the voices of civil society to the negotiations of the Conference of the Parties, to facilitate coordination among accredited civil society organizations and to ensure efficient communication on issues related to desertification, land degradation and drought.

40. Indigenous land rights and customary land tenure were also included in the agenda of the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September. Indigenous peoples were represented at the session, with financial support provided by donor countries.

United Nations Children's Fund

41. UNICEF has been working in the Congo, Gabon and the Philippines to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the system-wide action plan. In the 2018–2022 country programme document and child protection strategic note for Gabon, priority was given to the psychosocial care of indigenous children, mainly girls, in the areas of child marriage, violence at school, the right to education and birth registration.

42. Throughout 2017, UNICEF was the lead agency supporting the access of indigenous children to decentralized essential services and consolidating strategic partnerships and multi-stakeholder coordination under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Protection of Indigenous Peoples in the Congo. Emphasis has been placed on the development of a conducive environment, specifically political will at the highest level, as demonstrated by the adoption of a law for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, including national and decentralized action plans (2009–2013, 2014–2017) aimed at improving the living conditions of indigenous populations. The expression of interest and the growing commitment of United Nations agencies under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator also allow broad-based strategic partnerships, which are key to success. Data monitoring carried out in September indicated that 75.31 per cent of children (69.28 per cent of girls) had access to school, with an admission rate of 60.49 per cent (58.65 per cent of girls) and a completion rate of 93.75 per cent (92.23 per cent girls). With respect to the education of indigenous children, the impact is compelling. In 2017, in the school districts of Sibiti and Zanaga, the total number of primary-school children enrolled in school increased to 1,512, including 654 girls under a targeted education plan. In comparison, in 2013 Sibiti only 69 indigenous children were enrolled in school. UNICEF is also supporting the National Network of Indigenous Peoples of the Congo, a platform working for the rights of indigenous peoples.

43. In the Philippines, UNICEF, with support from the Government of Australia, is providing financial and technical assistance to the Department of Social Welfare and Development to improve the delivery of modified conditional cash transfers to indigenous peoples in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. In 2017, UNICEF completed a study entitled "Pagsasalinlahi: asserting and safeguarding indigenous peoples' rights for the next generation". The study identified barriers

experienced by indigenous children and their families in effectively accessing education and health services. The results will inform internal policy changes and programme decisions. In partnership with the Institute for Autonomy and Governance and indigenous peoples' organizations, UNICEF is mainstreaming the issues of indigenous children and youth in local government planning and budgeting in five municipalities with a large indigenous population in Maguindanao Province.

United Nations Development Programme

44. The new UNDP strategic plan, 2018–2021, provides a solution for partner countries on promoting nature-based solutions for a sustainable planet and on addressing finance, tenure and water and land rights with a clear understanding of the differentiated impacts, access and contributions of women and men, and also of indigenous communities. UNDP applies social and environmental standards, which are mandatory for all UNDP projects, comprising several elements: the overarching policy and principles, project-level standards and the policy delivery process. The project-level standards support the implementation of UNDP commitments to promote respect for human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability and relate to sustainable natural resource management, displacement and resettlement, cultural heritage and indigenous peoples.

45. Through the application of the United Nations Development Group approach for effective and coherent implementation support on the 2030 Agenda, under the acronym "MAPS" (mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support), UNDP consistently attempts to apply human rights-based approaches that encourage UNDP programming support for the Sustainable Development Goals to uphold the principle of leaving no one behind and ensuring the inclusion of groups, including indigenous peoples. The approved United Nations Development Assistance Framework guidance[2] to support the implementation of Agenda 2030 in countries makes specific reference to indigenous peoples in the principles for integrated programming on leaving no one behind as well as on human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment. The United Nations Development Group guidelines for country reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals also specifically address issues affecting indigenous peoples, including on data and participation and engagement. In addition, the UNDP social protection primer refers to ensuring social protection for indigenous peoples as part of the principle of leaving no one behind.

46. UNDP implements a range of programmes in different countries promoting indigenous peoples and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including stand-alone targeted programmes and the mainstreaming of indigenous people's rights in programmes related to governance, environment and climate change and national planning. Indigenous peoples remain a priority stakeholder group for the UNDP-implemented Global Environment Facility small grants programme, with some 141 projects including indigenous peoples, approximately 19 per cent of the portfolio of completed small grants programme projects in 2016–2017. The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD), launched in 2008, builds on the convening role and technical expertise of UNDP, FAO and UNEP. Operational in 55 countries, UN-REDD has a specific focus on indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, while also encouraging broader multi-stakeholder processes. UNDP is the lead agency for national governance of country-level efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation

[2] See https://undg.org/document/2017-undaf-guidance/.

and forest degradation (REDD-plus) and aims to enable those groups to participate in REDD-plus decision-making at the local, national and international levels.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

47. In October the UNESCO Executive Board at its 202nd session took note of a detailed policy on engaging with indigenous peoples. The policy aligns the work of UNESCO with the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and describes how the Declaration is being implemented across UNESCO sectors. The policy decision reinforces the UNESCO 2014–2021 medium-term strategy affirming that the Organization would implement the Declaration across all relevant programme areas and develop and implement a UNESCO-wide policy on engaging with indigenous peoples. The 2030 Agenda commitment to leave no one behind brings new impetus to ensuring that indigenous peoples' priorities are heard. In this light, the UNESCO policy on engaging with indigenous peoples outlines an institutional approach to guide all UNESCO programme sectors in their interactions with indigenous peoples.

48. In its resolution 71/178, the General Assembly proclaimed 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. Member States underscored the urgent need to preserve, promote and revitalize indigenous languages around the world and invited UNESCO to serve as the lead agency in organizing the Year.

49. UNESCO, through the 1972 Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, supports the involvement of indigenous peoples in the identification and conservation of their natural and cultural heritage.[3] In 2015, operational guidelines were amended to include specific references to indigenous peoples. In 2017, at its forty-first session, the World Heritage Committee noted the establishment of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on World Heritage. The Forum is composed of indigenous representatives from across the world and is expected to be operational during the forty-second session of the World Heritage Committee, to be held in Manama in 2018.

50. The work of UNESCO on indigenous knowledge and climate change is led by the Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (LINKS) Programme. With support from Japan and Sweden, the Organization is working with pastoralists in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to build capacity and transdisciplinary research on pastoralist knowledge of weather forecasting and climate adaptation. UNESCO-LINKS also hosts the technical support unit of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services task force on indigenous and local knowledge, with a mandate to reinforce the recognition of and respect for indigenous and local knowledge in all aspects of the Platform.

51. UNESCO continues to monitor the implementation of the right to education of indigenous peoples through regular consultations with member States and the examination of periodic reports on the implementation of the 1960 UNESCO Convention and Recommendation against Discrimination in Education. From 2012 to 2016, 14 of the 67 participating member States reported on measures taken in relation to the right to education for indigenous peoples, namely: Argentina, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

[3] See http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/496/.

52. At the thirty-ninth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, held in Paris from 30 October to 14 November, member States adopted a Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers,[4] which codifies what are considered the norms in this area. It addresses questions of indigenous peoples' knowledge (and interests) in a number of ways. Member States also adopted a Declaration of Ethical Principles in Relation to Climate Change, which addresses questions of indigenous peoples' knowledge, setting out ambitions and overarching principles for decision-making and policymaking in the area of climate change.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

53. The UN-Women strategic plan 2018–2021 and its strategy for inclusion and visibility of indigenous women supports the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the country level. For example, UN-Women plans to build the capacity of indigenous women and organizations (e.g. in Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Paraguay and the Philippines), commission studies on the situation of indigenous women in Latin America and the Caribbean in preparation for regional forums and mainstream indigenous issues in United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and common country assessments (e.g. for El Salvador, Guatemala and Nepal).

54. UN-Women is also mainstreaming indigenous women's issues into programming through its corporate strategy with respect to the visibility and inclusion of indigenous women. It is working with the regional inter-agency group on indigenous peoples for Latin America and the Caribbean and its indigenous consultative group, of which UN-Women acts as co-chair.

55. UN-Women supported the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-first session, in March, with its focus on the empowerment of indigenous women, commemorating the tenth anniversary of the Declaration. In its agreed conclusions (E/2017/27-E/CN.6/2017/21, chap. I.A), the Commission urged Governments to take measures to promote the economic empowerment of indigenous women, including by ensuring access to quality and inclusive education and meaningful participation in the economy by addressing the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and barriers they face, including violence, and promote their participation in relevant decision-making processes at all levels and in all areas, while respecting and protecting their traditional and ancestral knowledge and noting the importance of the Declaration for indigenous women and girls.

56. UN-Women, in its capacity as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, organized and hosted, with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, the annual meeting, held in Quito in June. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen the implementation of the system-wide action plan so as to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the aims of the Declaration at the national level and to contribute to the observance of the tenth anniversary of the Declaration through a common approach to advocacy, messaging and communication. It provided a platform for sharing the perspectives of United Nations country teams on the integration of the six priority areas of the system-wide action plan into United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and country-level programming. It also resulted in the development of a set of indicators for assisting the Support Group in forging a common accountability and reporting framework for the implementation of the system-wide action plan.

[4] See http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002489/248910E.pdf.

57. In 2017, UN-Women, in partnership with UNFPA and UNICEF, developed a fact sheet on indigenous women's maternal mortality and maternal health. UN-Women was also tasked by the General Assembly to prepare a global study on indigenous women, an effort welcomed by the Forum at its sixteenth session. Several UN-Women country offices have undertaken national studies on the situation of indigenous women, which have provided valuable input for the development of the global study. These include a study in Chile covering such issues as access to land, the impact of climate change, economic empowerment and the industry and mining sector and studies in Brazil and Paraguay on violence and HIV status among indigenous women.

58. Measures taken to support national partners in reforming and implementing legal frameworks, strategies and plans to carry out the Declaration are guided by both the UN-Women strategic plan 2018–2021 and the Entity's strategy for the inclusion and visibility of indigenous women. The strategic plan 2018–2021 includes as one of its guiding principles leaving no one behind and specifies under outcome 2, which states that women will lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems, that UN-Women will focus its contributions on supporting indigenous women in their efforts to achieve decision-making positions. The strategy for the inclusion and visibility of indigenous women supports country offices in bringing their programming to scale following the Secretary-General's system-wide action plan on the rights of indigenous peoples.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

59. UN-Habitat is providing support to Member States in their implementation of the New Urban Agenda (resolution 71/256, annex), which has a strong focus on the rights of indigenous peoples, in particular in paragraphs 1 and 20. Through country teams, UN-Habitat advocates for a strong focus on equitable land distribution, urban planning for those furthest behind and improved access to basic services.

60. UN-Habitat has advocated vigorously for the inclusion of indigenous people under Sustainable Development Goal 11, making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, particularly through the gathering of disaggregated data for Goal 11.1, to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums, in order to measure the target and to progressively realize the right to adequate housing. Indicator 11.3.2 measures the inclusion of civil society in urban governance, and UN-Habitat has highlighted the need for the representation of indigenous groups. Target 11.c, referring to vernacular architecture and indigenous building knowledge, also offers an opportunity to collect disaggregated data.

61. UN-Habitat is also working on measuring indicator 1.4.2, relating to secure tenure rights to land. The indicator measures both the formal documentation and the perception of security of tenure. This will involve surveys of populations and will target indigenous populations, including indigenous women. The Global Land Tool Network is a strong network of partners that develop tools for improving land rights for the most vulnerable, as well as undertaking a strong advocacy role. The Network has developed numerous tools for improving indigenous land rights.[5]

62. The UN-Habitat Environmental and Social Safeguards System contains a section relating specifically to the rights of indigenous persons. The system ensures that there are no negative unintended consequences of the Programme's work on indigenous peoples. At the country level, UN-Habitat has mandatory consultation

[5] See *Securing Land Rights for Indigenous Peoples in Cities*.

processes that are verified using a human rights marker at the time of project approval, which ensures that indigenous peoples are duly consulted in any work that may have an impact on them.

63. UN-Habitat hosted the ninth session of the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 13 February 2018. This major event brings together a variety of stakeholders, including members of local and national government, urban practitioners, community groups and grass-roots organizations. A series of stakeholder round tables are organized as part of the Forum. The stakeholder round table for indigenous peoples is a consultative mechanism that involves indigenous peoples in global discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. This event is an opportunity for indigenous peoples and interested parties to raise key issues, share experiences and form partnerships. It also serves to raise awareness on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

United Nations Population Fund

64. At its sixteenth session, the Forum made five recommendations specific to UNFPA, related to the participation of indigenous peoples living with and affected by HIV/AIDS; the identification of good practices of culturally appropriate intervention models in developing countries that provide support to indigenous women and girls in exercising their health and reproductive rights; the development of a fact sheet on maternal and child health in indigenous communities; the preparation of study on access to the labour market by and conditions of indigenous women and youth; and data disaggregation for indigenous peoples and the inclusion of complementary indicators on indigenous peoples' rights in national reports on the Sustainable Development Goals (see E/2017/43-E/C.19/2017/11, paras. 42, 44, 45, 52 and 90).

65. UNFPA is adopting an intercultural approach in its strategies and interventions. In the strategic plan for 2018–2021, there is a specific output and indicator on an intercultural approach as a part of its health programmes. UNFPA addresses the health needs of indigenous women and girls by strengthening the collection and analysis of data on their health status. One of the key challenges in addressing the health needs of indigenous women and girls is the lack of data on their health status. To address this challenge, and as a direct follow-up to a recommendation from the report on the fifteenth session of the Forum (E/2016/43-E/C.19/2016/11, para. 38), UNFPA collaborated with UNICEF and UN-Women in the development of a fact sheet on indigenous women's maternal health and morbidity, to be launched at the 2018 session of the Forum.

66. UNFPA is undertaking an analysis of the level of implementation of the recommendations on sexual and reproductive health and rights and violence against indigenous women and youth, as well as ways by which action on the Forum's recommendations can be strengthened, in collaboration with indigenous peoples' organizations. The analysis was complemented by an in-depth review of the experiences in nine countries: Australia, Canada, Congo, Guatemala, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, Peru and Thailand.

67. To achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the system-wide action plan, UNFPA has been working at the country, regional and global levels in more than 150 countries and territories. For example, in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, UNFPA has incorporated in its country programme 2018–2022 work with indigenous peoples, specifically women, to promote sexual and reproductive health, with an emphasis on intercultural maternal

health, work with youth and adolescents on empowerment and participation and sanctioning violence against women, with an emphasis on access to justice. In Guatemala, UNFPA provided technical assistance to the Government and social organizations, promoting the inclusion of indigenous peoples in consultations, in line with the 2017 national report on the implementation of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, which has special measures to include indigenous peoples as subjects of public development policies. In Mexico, UNFPA has prioritized working in locations with a high percentage of indigenous peoples — a strategy that aligns well with the goals of the federal programme for cooperation 2014–2018 — and has worked in 101 localities. This federal programme focuses on indigenous rights and is centred on reducing maternal mortality, preventing adolescent pregnancy, promoting traditional birth practices, preventing violence against women and empowering women.

68. In Asia, UNFPA is a leading development partner of the Government of India and has supported the strengthening of health systems in several tribal districts, including reinforcing the skills of service providers with respect to evidence-based practices, enhancing the pre-service midwifery programme, improving the availability and quality of rural health services and providing supportive supervision to service providers. Moreover, UNFPA targeted marginalized adolescent girls aged 10–19 years from tribal areas empowered under the Action for Adolescent Girls Initiative in Odisha, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In Odisha, 11,500 girls were reached, more than 1,800 peer educators were trained and 220 girls were provided vocational skills training.

69. In Africa, in collaboration with the Burundi Ministry of Public Health and the Fight against AIDS, UNFPA established nine operational "friend of young people" health centres in the province of Ngozi. The centres focus on young people from resource-poor settings, including the Batwa communities, and ensure that they are informed about the existence and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services. So far 125,833 young people have benefited from the services.

World Bank

70. The World Bank reported that to address new development demands and challenges, it undertook, from 2012 to 2016, an extensive process of updating and consolidating the Bank's environmental and social safeguard policies. Indigenous peoples were an integral part of the dialogue during this review.

71. In 2016, the Board of Executive Directors approved an environmental and social framework that expanded protections for people and the environment in Bank-financed investment projects. The framework includes an environmental and social standard for indigenous peoples and sub-Saharan African historically underserved traditional local communities, including pastoralists and peoples in voluntary isolation, in which the principle of free, prior and informed consent is introduced. The Bank is now undergoing an intensive preparation and training period before the transition to this new framework. Indigenous peoples will continue to be a crucial partner in its roll-out and implementation.

72. The World Bank addresses indigenous peoples' issues by supporting national strategies and plans, as reflected in its country partnership frameworks. As part of its 2018–2022 country partnership framework with Viet Nam, the Bank will broaden the economic participation of ethnic minorities, women and vulnerable groups through a multisectoral engagement, with a focus on livelihood- and income-generating activities.

73. The World Bank is helping to empower indigenous peoples to assume direct management of projects that affect them or projects in which they are involved. Examples include the Forest Investment Programme's Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, an innovative grant programme for fighting forest loss, and the capacity-building programme of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in Asia, Africa and Latin America, to provide forest-dependent indigenous peoples with information, knowledge and awareness to enhance their understanding of REDD-plus and their ability to engage more meaningfully in the implementation of REDD-plus readiness activities.

World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization

74. WHO has been working towards the implementation of the health plan for indigenous youth in Latin America, an initiative noted by the Permanent Forum at its sixteenth session (E/2017/43-E/C.19/2017/11, para. 60). PAHO, in collaboration with indigenous youth, is defining the next activities to be conducted in the implementation of the plan. PAHO is also disseminating the health plan for indigenous youth to the ministries of health through its country offices.

75. PAHO and WHO have worked for the approval of a policy on ethnicity and health, which addresses not only the need to contemplate the different determinants that have an impact on the health of indigenous peoples in the region, but also the need to consider intercultural approaches to health. The policy was approved by all ministries of health in the region at the Pan American Sanitary Conference, held in Washington, D.C., from 25 to 29 September. It is a guide for the Americas incorporating the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other key instruments relevant to indigenous peoples.

76. PAHO and WHO have been actively involved in providing information related to the health of indigenous peoples in the region and will continue to participate in system-wide action plan communication groups.

World Intellectual Property Organization

77. The WIPO secretariat has continued to participate in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues and is committed to shaping a balanced and effective intellectual property system for the benefit of all. The Permanent Forum is an observer to the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore and is systematically invited to attend its sessions.

78. Indigenous peoples create, maintain and develop their traditional knowledge and cultural expressions as part of their core identities and as a rich foundation of their well-being and development. Through norm-setting negotiations taking place within the Intergovernmental Committee, the WIPO secretariat facilitates intergovernmental negotiations aimed at the development, at the international level, of an intellectual property-related legal instrument or instruments to further balanced and effective protection of genetic resources, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions. Awareness of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within the Committee has contributed to the Declaration's resonance internationally. References to the Declaration are included in the working documentation of the Committee and it has been regularly advocated for in the Committee's negotiations, particularly, but not exclusively by indigenous peoples' representatives.

79. A WIPO publication entitled *Promote and Protect Your Culture: A Practical Guide to Intellectual Property for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities*, was featured at a side event during the 2017 session of the Forum.